



Department Updates

October 2016

Circuit Court

Judge James Babler

After staff at the Justice Center received dementia friendly training, Tricia Bailkey from the ADRC pointed out that the Justice Center lacked good signage. In general it wasn't easy to navigate where to go or where the elevator and restrooms were. The lack of signage made it difficult not only for those with dementia, but also for the general public.

Sheriff Chris Fitzgerald began the change by arranging for new signage

on the first floor. Then Clerk of Courts Sharon Millermon and I arranged for the same style of signage for the second floor.

Utilizing recommendations offered in the dementia friendly presentation, the new signage

is easy to read and at eye level with large font and high contrast. Directional arrows are also used to indicate the location of offices, restrooms, elevators, courtrooms, and the jail.



Medical Examiner

Submitted By Mary A. Ricci, Medical Examiner

		3rd Quarter Cases									
		Male	Female	Natural	Suicide	Homicide	Accident	Pending	Autopsy		
2016	100	58	42	91	0	0	8	1	Forensic = 3	67	23
2015	89	43	46	83	0	0	6	0	Clinical = 2	64	23
2014	90	39	51	86	0	1	3	0	C = 3, F = 1	59	22

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Clerk of Courts

Sharon Millermon Clerk of Courts

Barron County Clerk of Circuit Court was one of the first 10 of 72 counties to become a mandatory e-filing county in the State of Wisconsin for civil, small claims, family and paternity type cases. The Clerk of Court Office began preparing for this transition several years ago by scanning cases. Clerks have been working incredibly hard to make it a smooth transition. The first couple of weeks were a bit stressful, but it is all falling into place very nicely. E-filing has brought major procedural changes in how we will be conducting business now and in the future. Along with staff having great positive attitudes from the beginning, we are all ready experiencing the efficiency benefits.

Individuals representing them-

selves can still file paper, but attorneys and high volume filers of more than 10 cases per year will be required to e-file. Directly, the Barron County Child Support Agency and Corporation Counsel have been affected greatly in how new cases and subsequent documents are filed. A significant advantage is once a document is accepted by the Clerk of Circuit Court Office as filed, filers have immediate access to the document for copying, service, etc.

It is that time of the year again when the Clerk of Court Office sends out 1500 juror qualification questionnaires for 2017. All 1500 questionnaires need to be returned or followed up on. This is the second year of offering prospective jurors the capability to complete their juror qualification questionnaire electronically along with signing up for text and email reminder

messages, if randomly selected. Text and email messages are a very popular addition and many positive comments have been received by jurors.

Year after year Wendy Coleman operates the folding/insert machine for the juror qualification questionnaire mailings which I greatly appreciate. Furthermore, Leslie Fijalkiewicz wrote a very nice informational article in the Senior Review after we discussed the elderly being summoned for jury duty. The education and knowledge gained by our seniors through their own life experiences makes them excellent jurors with a vast knowledge and they provide an invaluable service to our county. Thank you, ladies, for all you have done for Barron County's jury system.

Health & Human Services

Stacey Frolik, Director

Economic Support Services

Energy Assistance - The Energy Assistance Program began October 1, 2016 and ends May 15, 2017. The Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) provides a one-time payment for heating and electric costs. Last year the program served 230,000 Wisconsin households, 1,787 in Barron County.

GRCC - The Great Rivers Consortium Call Center (GRCC) has been one-touch since July 5, 2016, which means consumers can call the GRCC to complete an application, a renewal, or have their questions answered for FoodShare, Medical Assistance, Child Care Assistance, or Caretaker Supplement. Almost all ES staff consortia wide spend at least 4 hours each day (with the exception of

Wednesdays) on the Call Center and many days much more.

My WI Child Care - My WI Child Care is the new Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Program expected to roll out statewide in February 2017. My WI Child Care will allow families the ability to pay for child care using approved Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy funds using an EBT card. The My WI Child Care program will

Health & Human Services (Continued)

allow eligible parents to have an EBT card authorized with their approved child care subsidy. This approach represents a better payment management system than the current method, where the state makes child care payments directly to providers without parents having any involvement or oversight of the billing process. Under the My WI Child Care model, the customer relationship shifts from one that is between the child care provider and the state, to a relationship that is between the child care provider and the parent. This shift will empower and promote parental responsibility by having parents directly involved in the negotiation of child care payments for their children. With the use of the My WI Child Care card, there is opportunity for improved customer relationships between parents and child care providers. The My WI Child Care EBT card will also serve as a strong fraud prevention tool and the new system will combine overall fraud policy with the new state-of-the-art technology.

Public Health

Laura Sauve has been hired as the new Public Health Manager/Health Officer for our Health Department. Laura has worked for the Health Department for 23 years as a Public Health Nurse. We are excited to have her in this new role.

Public Health will be offering free influenza vaccinations to children at all Barron County School Districts. Clinics are preliminarily scheduled for October and November. Consent forms and additional information will be communicated

through your school. Nasal spray influenza vaccine will not be available this year. It was found to be less effective than the injection. Help protect yourself and your loved ones this flu season. Get vaccinated, wash your hands frequently, cover your cough and stay home when sick.

Dates:

10/20/16 Chetek/Weyerhaeuser

10/25/16 Barron High School and Woodland Elementary

10/26/16 Barron Middle School and Outlying Elementary Schools

11/1/16 Turtle Lake Schools

11/2/16 Rice Lake High School

11/3/16 Prairie Farm Schools

11/8/16 Cumberland Schools

11/9/16 St. Joseph School

11/10/16 Rice Lake Middle School and Hilltop Elementary

11/14/16 Cameron Schools

11/15/16 Rice Lake: Haugen and Tainter Elementary

These clinics allow public health to practice large scale immunization protocols and prepare us to respond in the case of a disease outbreak. Our communities benefit from this practice as the State allows us to give all children 6 months through 18 years old influenza vaccine free of charge. Parents may also choose to bring their children to public health on a walk in basis from 8:30 am-11 am and 1 pm to 4 pm, other times by appointment.

Behavioral Health/Addiction Services

Ann Hay has been hired as the new Behavioral Health/Addiction Services Program Manager. Ann worked for the Department in the Community Support Program (CSP) as a case manager for 3.5 years before accepting this position. We are excited to have Ann in this new role.

Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) programming continues to expand. This is programming to serve consumers with mental health and/or addictions issues across their lifespan. There is a functional and financial eligibility requirement to qualify for services under CCS and it is a voluntary program. We currently have 21 children in the program and 16 adults in the program.

Children and Families

The next Methamphetamine Town Hall meeting will be held on November 15, 2016 at 6 pm at the Red Cedar Church in Rice Lake. Several Town Hall meetings have been held over the last 6 months in communities throughout the county. This meeting will be to discuss continuing emerging trends and efforts to intervene in this epic problem we are having in this county. The Town Hall is co-sponsored by the Barron County Sheriff's Department, Barron County Department of Health and Human Services and the Barron County Drug Court Program. We invite everyone to attend, even if you have previously attended one of the Town Hall meetings you will hear additional information and stories that have not been shared in the past.